Case 08-35653-KRH Doc 9414 Filed 11/10/10 Entered 11/10/10 17:57:56 Desc Main Document Page 1 of 14

B104 (FORM 104) (08/07) EDVA

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING COVER SHEET (Instructions on Reverse)		ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NUMBER (Court Use Only)		
PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDANTS			
ATTORNEYS (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone No.)	ATTORNEYS (If Known)			
PARTY (Check One Box Only)  □ Debtor □ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin  □ Creditor □ Other  □ Trustee	PARTY ( ☐ Debtor ☐ Creditor ☐ Trustee	Check One Box Only)  □ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin  □ Other		
CAUSE OF ACTION (WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE		, INCLUDING ALL U.S. STATUTES INVOLVED)		
NATURE ( (Number up to five (5) boxes starting with lead cause of action as 1)		ve cause as 2, second alternative cause as 3, etc.)		
FRBP 7001(1) – Recovery of Money/Property  11-Recovery of money/property - §542 turnover of property  12-Recovery of money/property - §547 preference  13-Recovery of money/property - §548 fraudulent transfer  14-Recovery of money/property - other	FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability (continued)  61-Dischargeability - \$523(a)(5), domestic support  68-Dischargeability - \$523(a)(6), willful and malicious injury  63-Dischargeability - \$523(a)(8), student loan  64-Dischargeability - \$523(a)(15), divorce or separation obligation  (other than domestic support)			
FRBP 7001(2) – Validity, Priority or Extent of Lien  21-Validity, priority or extent of lien or other interest in property  FRBP 7001(3) – Approval of Sale of Property  31-Approval of sale of property of estate and of a co-owner - §363(h)	☐ 65-Dischargeability - other  FRBP 7001(7) – Injunctive Relief ☐ 71-Injunctive relief – imposition of stay			
FRBP 7001(4) – Objection/Revocation of Discharge  41-Objection / revocation of discharge - §727(c),(d),(e)  FRBP 7001(5) – Revocation of Confirmation	72-Injunctive relief – other  FRBP 7001(8) Subordination of Claim or Interest  81-Subordination of claim or interest  FRBP 7001(9) Declaratory Judgment			
☐ 51-Revocation of confirmation  FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability  ☐ 66-Dischargeability - §523(a)(1),(14),(14A) priority tax claims	91-Declaratory judgment  FRBP 7001(10) Determination of Removed Action  01-Determination of removed claim or cause			
☐ 62-Dischargeability - §523(a)(2), false pretenses, false representation, actual fraud ☐ 67-Dischargeability - §523(a)(4), fraud as fiduciary, embezzlement, larceny (continued next column)	Other  SS-SIPA Case – 15 U.S.C. §§78aaa et.seq.  02-Other (e.g. other actions that would have been brought in state court if unrelated to bankruptcy case)			
☐ Check if this case involves a substantive issue of state law ☐ Check if a jury trial is demanded in complaint	☐ Check if  Demand \$	☐ Check if this is asserted to be a class action under FRCP 23  Demand \$		
Other Relief Sought				

Case 08-35653-KRH Doc 9414 Filed 11/10/10 Entered 11/10/10 17:57:56 Desc Main Document Page 2 of 14

B104 (FORM 104) (08/07), Page 2

BANKRUPTCY CASE IN WHICH THIS ADVERSARY PROCEEDING ARISES						
NAME OF DEBTOR		BANKRUPTCY CASE NO.				
DISTRICT IN WHICH CASE IS PENDING		DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE			
RELATED ADVERSARY PROCEEDING (IF ANY)						
PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT		ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NO.			
DISTRICT IN WHICH ADVERSARY IS PENDIN	lG	DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE			
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF)						
DATE		PRINT NAME OF ATTORNE	Y (OR PLAINTIFF)			

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

The filing of a bankruptcy case creates an "estate" under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court which consists of all of the property of the debtor, wherever that property is located. Because the bankruptcy estate is so extensive and the jurisdiction of the court so broad, there may be lawsuits over the property or property rights of the estate. There also may be lawsuits concerning the debtor's discharge. If such a lawsuit is filed in a bankruptcy court, it is called an adversary proceeding.

A party filing an adversary proceeding must also complete and file Form 104, the Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet, \*unless the party files the adversary proceeding electronically through the court's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system (CM/ECF). (CM/ECF captures the information on Form 104 as part of the filing process.) When completed, the cover sheet summarizes basic information on the adversary proceeding. The clerk of court needs the information to process the adversary proceeding and prepare required statistical reports on court activity.

The cover sheet and the information contained on it do not replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, the Bankruptcy Rules, or the local rules of court. The cover sheet, which is largely self-explanatory, must be completed by the plaintiff's attorney (or by the plaintiff if the plaintiff is not represented by an attorney). A separate cover sheet must be submitted to the clerk for each complaint filed.

**Plaintiffs** and **Defendants.** Give the names of the plaintiffs and defendants exactly as they appear on the complaint.

**Attorneys.** Give the names and addresses of the attorneys, if known.

Party. Check the most appropriate box in the first column for the plaintiffs and the second column for the defendants.

**Demand.** Enter the dollar amount being demanded in the complaint.

**Signature.** This cover sheet must be signed by the attorney of record in the box on the second page of the form. If the plaintiff is represented by a law firm, a member of the firm must sign. If the plaintiff is pro se, that is, not represented by an attorney, the plaintiff must sign.

\*Per LBR 7003-1, in the EDVA, a properly completed Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet is required.

Jeffrey N. Pomerantz, Esq. Andrew W. Caine, Esq. (admitted *pro hac vice*)

PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP 10100 Santa Monica Boulevard

Los Angeles, California 90067-4100 Telephone: (310) 277-6910 Telecopy: (310) 201-0760

- and –

Robert J. Feinstein, Esq. John A. Morris, Esq. (admitted *pro hac vice*)

PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP

780 Third Avenue, 36<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York 10017 Telephone: (212) 561-7700 Telecopy: (212) 561-7777

Counsel to the Liquidating Trustee

Lynn L. Tavenner, Esq. (VA Bar No. 30083) Paula S. Beran, Esq. (VA Bar No. 34679) TAVENNER & BERAN, PLC 20 North Eighth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219

Telephone: (804) 783-8300

Telecopy: (804) 783-0178

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA RICHMOND DIVISION

In re:	) Case No. 08-35653 (KRH)
CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., et al.,	) Chapter 11
Debtors.	) ) (Jointly Administered)
ALFRED H. SIEGEL, AS TRUSTEE OF THE CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC. LIQUIDATING TRUST,	, ) ) ) Adv. Pro. No. 10 )
Plaintiff,	) )
v.	) )
CORMARK, INC UNITED STATES DEBT RECOVERY LLC, AND UNITED STATES DEBT RECOVERY III, LP	) ) )
Defendant.	) )

THE LIQUIDATING TRUSTEE'S COMPLAINT TO AVOID AND RECOVER PREFERENTIAL TRANSFERS AND OBJECTION TO CLAIM NOS. 7025, 7026, 7278, AND 7304

Alfred H. Siegel, the duly appointed trustee of the Circuit City Stores, Inc.

Liquidating Trust (the "Trustee"), pursuant to the Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation of
Circuit City Stores, Inc. and its Affiliated Debtors and Debtors in Possession and its Official
Committee of Creditors Holding General Unsecured Claims (the "Plan"), for his complaint and
for his objection to proof of claim numbers 7025, 7026, 7278 and 7304 (the "Complaint")
against CORMARK, INC. ("Cormark"), United States Debt Recovery LLC ("Debt Recovery
LLC"), and United States Debt Recovery III, LLP ("Debt Recovery III," and collectively, with
Debt Recovery LLC, "United States Debt Recovery"), alleges as follows:

### NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. The Trustee brings this action against Cormark to avoid and recover certain preferential transfers that occurred during the 90-day period prior to the commencement of Circuit City's bankruptcy proceedings. Finally, the Trustee objects to Defendant's proofs of claim filed against the Debtors' estates and transferred to United States Debt Recovery.

#### THE PARTIES

- 2. The Trustee ("Trustee" or "Plaintiff") is the duly appointed trustee of the Circuit City Stores, Inc. Liquidating Trust (the "Trust"). Pursuant to Articles II and III of the Trust, the Trustee has the sole authority to pursue claims transferred to the Trust by the Debtors through the Plan, and to litigate objections to claims asserted against the Debtors' estates.
- 3. Prior to the Effective Date of the Plan, Circuit City Stores, Inc. and its affiliated debtors in possession (collectively "Circuit City" or the "Debtors")<sup>1</sup> were corporations

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors and the last four digits of their respective taxpayer identification numbers are as follows: Circuit City Stores, Inc. (3875), Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc. (0785), InterTAN, Inc. (0875), Ventoux International, Inc. (1838), Circuit City Purchasing Company, LLC (5170), CC Aviation, LLC (0841), CC Distribution Company of Virginia, Inc. (2821), Circuit City Properties, LLC (3353), Kinzer Technology, LLC (2157), Abbott Advertising (cont'd)

that maintained their respective principal places of business in the locations set forth below, and were the debtors in the above-captioned chapter 11 bankruptcy cases.

- 4. Upon information and belief, defendant Cormark is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois with its principal place of business in Des Plaines, Illinois.
- 5. Upon information and belief, defendant Debt Recovery LLC is a limited liability corporation organized under the laws of the State of Nevada with its principal place of business in Incline Village, Nevada.
- 6. Upon information and belief, defendant Debt Recovery III is a limited liability and partnership organized under the laws of the state of Nevada with its principal place of business in Incline Village, Nevada.

# **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 7. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334.
  - 8. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b).
- 9. Venue of these chapter 11 cases and this adversary proceeding in this district and before this Court is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

<sup>(</sup>cont'd from previous page)

Agency, Inc. (4659), Patapsco Designs, Inc.(6796), Sky Venture Corp. (0311), PRAHS, Inc.(n/a), XSStuff, LLC (9263), Mayland MN, LLC (6116), Courchevel, LLC (n/a), Orbyx Electronics, LLC (3360), and Circuit City Stores PR, LLC (5512). The address for Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc. is 9250 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster, Colorado 80031. For all other Debtors, the address was 9950 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233 and currently is 4951 Lake Brook Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

10. The statutory and legal predicates for the relief requested by the Complaint are sections 105, 502, 503, 541, 542, 547, 550, and 558 of title 11, United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Bankruptcy Rules 3007 and 7001, and Local Bankruptcy Rule 3007-1.

# PERTINENT FACTS

## A. General Case Background

- 11. On November 10, 2008 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions in this Court for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, and until the effective date of the Plan, continued to operate as debtors in possession pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 1107 and 1108.
- 12. On November 12, 2008, the Office of the United States Trustee for the Eastern District of Virginia appointed a statutory committee of unsecured creditors (the "Creditors' Committee").
- 13. On January 16, 2009, the Court authorized the Debtors to, among other things, conduct going out of business sales at all of the Debtors' retail locations (the "Stores") pursuant to an agency agreement (the "Agency Agreement") between the Debtors and a joint venture, as agent (the "Agent"). On January 17, 2009, the Agent commenced going out of business sales at the Stores pursuant to the Agency Agreement. As of March 8, 2009, the going out of business sales at the Debtors' stores were completed.
- 14. On August 9, 2010, the Debtors and the Creditors' Committee filed the Plan, which provides for the liquidation of the Debtors' assets and distribution of the proceeds thereof under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 15. On September 10, 2010, the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Virginia, signed an Order confirming the Plan.

16. The Plan became effective on November 1, 2010 (the "Effective Date").

# B. The Business Relationship Between Circuit City And Cormark

- 17. Prior to the commencement of these bankruptcy cases, the Debtors were a leading specialty retailer of consumer electronics and operated large nationwide electronics stores that sold, among other things, televisions, home theatre systems, computers, camcorders, furniture, software, imaging and telecommunications products, and other audio and video electronics.
- 18. During the course of the parties' relationship, the parties engaged in numerous transactions, that are reflected in invoices, communications and other documents (collectively, the "Cormark Agreements").
- 19. Circuit City purchased goods from the Defendant pursuant to the CormarkAgreements.
- 20. Circuit City and Defendant conducted business with one another up to at least the Petition Date under the Defendant's Agreements.
- 21. During the ordinary course of the Debtors' business, the Debtors maintained books and records of their transactions with Defendant (the "Books and Records").

# C. <u>Amounts Allegedly Owed To Defendant And Defendant's</u> Proofs Of Claim

#### (1) Claim No. 7025

- 22. On or about January 28, 2009, Defendant filed Claim No. 7025 as a general unsecured non-priority claim in the amount of \$13,185.58. The Claims Agent appointed by the Court designated this claim as claim no. 7025 ("Claim No. 7025"),
- 23. Claim No. 7025 was filed on account of goods and services allegedly provided to Circuit City prior to the Petition Date.

# (2) Claim No. 7026

- 24. On or about January 29, 2009 Defendant filed claim no. 7026 as a general unsecured non-priority claim in the amount of \$890,713.06. The Claims Agent appointed by the Court designated this claim as claim no. 7026 ("Claim No. 7026").
- 25. Claim No. 7026 was filed on account of goods and services allegedly provided to Circuit City prior to the Petition Date.

# (3) Claim No. 7278

- 26. On or about January 28, 2009, Defendant filed clam no. 7278 as a general unsecured non-priority claim in the amount of \$890,713.06. The Claims Agent appointed by the Court designated this claim as claim no. 7278 ("Claim No. 7278"),
- 27. Claim No. 7278 was filed on account of goods and services allegedly provided to Circuit City prior to the Petition Date.

# (4) Claim No. 7304

- 28. On or about January 28, 2009, Defendant filed clam no. 7304 as a general unsecured non-priority claim in the amount of \$13,185.58. The Claims Agent appointed by the Court designated this claim as claim no. 7304 ("Claim No. 7304"),
- 29. Claim No. 7304 was filed on account of goods and services allegedly provided to Circuit City prior to the Petition Date.
- 30. Claim No. 7304 is currently the subject of the pending Debtors' *Twenty-Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (Disallowance of Certain Claims Filed Against the Wrong Debtor)*, dated June 23, 2009 [Docket No. 3710].

# D. The Transfer of Claims

31. On or about July 28, 2009, United States Debt Recovery filed with the Court a notice of transfer of claims (the "Transfer Notice") [Docket No. 4323]. Pursuant to the Transfer Notice, Cormark transferred Claim No. 7025, 7026, 7278 and 7304 to United States Debt Recovery with 26% of the Claims allocated to Debt Recovery LLC and 74% of the Claims allocated to Debt Recovery III.

# E. <u>Transfers To Defendant Made Within 90 Days Prior To The Petition Date</u>

- 32. During the 90-day period prior to the commencement of Circuit City's bankruptcy cases (the "Preference Period"), Circuit City transferred property to or for the benefit of Defendant in an amount not less than \$1,134,600.36. A list identifying each and every transfer during the Preference Period is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u> and incorporated herein by reference (collectively, the "Preferential Transfers").
- 33. Plaintiff acknowledges that some of the Preferential Transfers might be subject to defenses under Bankruptcy Code section 547(c), for which the Defendant bears the burden of proof under Section 547(g). Plaintiff will work with Defendant to exchange applicable information in an effort to resolve any and all factual issues with respect to potential defenses.

#### **COUNT I**

# AVOIDANCE OF PREFERENTIAL TRANSFERS PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 547(b) (Against Defendant Cormark)

- 34. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 35. During the Preference Period, Defendant was a creditor of one or more of the Debtors.

- 36. Each Preferential Transfer identified on Exhibit A hereto was made to or for the benefit of Defendant.
- 37. Each Preferential Transfer was made for or on account of an antecedent debt or debts owed by one or more of the Debtors before such Preferential Transfers were made.
  - 38. Each Preferential Transfer was made during the Preference Period.
  - 39. Each Preferential Transfer was made while the Debtors were insolvent.
- 40. Each Preferential Transfer enabled Defendant to receive more than Defendant would have received if (i) the Debtors' chapter 11 cases were instead cases under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code; (ii) the transfers and/or payments had not been made; and (iii) Defendant received payment on account of the debt paid by the Preferential Transfers to the extent provided by the Bankruptcy Code.
- 41. Each Preferential Transfer constitutes an avoidable preference pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 547(b).

### **COUNT II**

# RECOVERY OF PREFERENTIAL TRANSFERS PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 550 (Against Defendant Cormark)

- 42. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein
- 43. Defendant was either (i) the initial transferee of the Preferential Transfers, (ii) the entity for whose benefit the Preferential Transfers were made, or (iii) an immediate or mediate transferee of the Preferential Transfers.
- 44. Each Preferential Transfer that is avoided under Section 547(b) is recoverable pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 550.

45. Subject to potential defenses, the Trustee is entitled to recover the value of the Preferential Transfers pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 550(a).

## **COUNT III**

# OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 7025, 7026, 7278 and 7304 – DISALLOWANCE UNDER SECTION 502(d)

(Against Defendant United States Debt Recovery)

- 46. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 47. Claim Nos. 7025, 7026, 7278 and 7304 assert rights to payment allegedly owed by one or more of the Debtors.
- 48. As alleged above, each Preferential Transfer constitutes an avoidable preference pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 547(b), which is recoverable pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 550.
- 49. Accordingly, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 502(d), Claim Nos. 7025, 7026, 7278 and 7304 must be disallowed unless and until Defendant pays to the Trustee an amount equal to each Preferential Transfer that is avoided.

## **COUNT IV**

# **OBJECTION TO CLAIM NO. 7025 AS OVERSTATED** (Against Defendants United States Debt Recovery)

- 50. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 51. In the alternative to Count III, but without waiving any allegations with respect thereto, the Trustee makes the following additional allegations in support of Court IV.

- 52. After a thorough review of the Debtors' Books and Records, the Trustee has determined that Claim No. 7025 is unwarranted/overstated by \$5,760.00. In particular, the Trustee has determined that Claim No. 7025 fails to account for reconciling adjustments and/or provide proper credits to Circuit City.
- 53. As a result, Defendant's Claim No. 7025 should be reduced to an amount not to exceed \$7,425.58.

### **COUNT V**

# OBJECTION TO CLAIM NO. 7026 AS DUPLICATIVE OF CLAIM NO. 7278 (Against Defendants United States Debt Recovery)

- 54. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 55. In the alternative to Count III, but without waiving any allegation with respect thereto, the Trustee makes the following additional allegations in support of Count V.
- 56. After a thorough review of the Debtors' Books and Records, the Trustee has determined that Claim No. 7026 is duplicative of Claim No. 7278.
  - 57. Accordingly, Claim No. 7026 should be disallowed in its entirety.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Trustee respectfully requests and prays that the Court:

- i. Pursuant to Counts I and II, enter judgment against Defendant under 11 U.S.C. §§ 547 and 550 and allow the Trustee to avoid and recover the Preferential Transfers in an amount not less than \$1,134,600.36 and
- ii. Pursuant to Count III, disallow Claim Nos. 7025, 7026, 7278 and 7304 in accordance with Bankruptcy Code section 502(d) pending payment by Defendant to the Trustee of any avoidable and recoverable transfers; and
- iii. In the alternative to Count III, pursuant to Count IV, reduce Claim No. 7025 from the overstated amount of \$13,185.58 to the proper amount of \$7,425.58; and

- iv. In the alternative to Count III, pursuant to Count V, disallow Claim No. 7026 in its entirety; and
- v. Award the Trustee prejudgment interest at the legally allowed applicable rate; and
  - vi. Award the Trustee costs, and expenses of suit herein; and
- vii. Grant the Trustee such other and further relief the Court deems just and appropriate.

Dated: Richmond, Virginia November 10, 2010 TAVENNER & BERAN, PLC

# /s/ Paula S. Beran

Lynn L. Tavenner (VA Bar No. 30083) Paula S. Beran (VA Bar No. 34679) 20 North Eighth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 783-8300

- and -

PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP Jeffrey N. Pomerantz, Esq. Andrew W. Caine, Esq. 10100 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90067-4100 (310) 277-6910

- and –

Robert J. Feinstein, Esq. John A. Morris, Esq. PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP 780 Third Avenue, 36<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York 10017 (212) 561-7700

Counsel to the Liquidating Trustee

# **EXHIBIT A**

# (Preferential Transfers)

Vendor Name	Check Clear Date	Check Number		Paid Amount
CORMARK INC	9/24/2008		27787	\$ 37,900.00
CORMARK INC	10/8/2008		28115	\$ 73,028.80
CORMARK INC	10/14/2008		28232	\$ 157,011.92
CORMARK INC	10/15/2008		28320	\$ 299,418.08
CORMARK INC	11/4/2008		28545	\$ 567,241.56

**Total Payment Amount** \$1,134,600.36